TL 5804

DRAFT 8 December 1999

TIMOR LOROSAE NGO DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (TILNDEC)

1. VISION

To contribute to the building of a pluralist, democratic, just and sustainable East Timor through the development of a strong, independent and responsible civil society committed to upholding and making real in the daily life of the community, both village and urban, the full range of human rights so that all East Timorese, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, can enjoy the fruits of liberation and development in an East Timor forever free.

2. MISSION

To realise its vision by promoting a culture of learning, cooperation, partnership with the community and respect for human rights and good practice amongst East Timorese NGOs and between them and other development actors, both domestic and international, and by serving as a collective, independent voice for the rights and needs of the community.

3. VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

TILNDEC will uphold and promote the following principles: a rights approach to development, inclusiveness, participation, accountability, gender balance, respect for the environment, non-party political, non-sectarian, good governance, and volunteerism.

4. ROLE

4.1 Information

TILNDEC will be a clearing house of information on development issues, research and trends and will keep its members informed by providing a regular information service on government policies, meetings, visitors, and other activities and issues relevant to the sector.

4.2 Coordination

TILNDEC will foster cooperation and inclusiveness by bringing national NGOs together to share information, to develop policy and to facilitate joint action and strategic relationships. The Forum will also promote cooperation, transparency and partnership between national and international NGOs by facilitating contact and communication.

4.3 International liaison

TILNDEC will establish mechanisms to ensure that there is effective two way contact and communication between national NGOs and international NGOs and donors.

4.4 Advocacy

TILNDEC will provide a forum through which the values, views and interests of its constituents and grassroots local communities, especially the poor and disadvantaged, can be represented clearly and strongly to government, international NGOs and the community, both domestically and internationally, through the media or by direct representation and participation.

4.5 Good practice

TILNDEC will actively promote a human rights approach to sustainable development and high standards of NGO good governance, management, effectiveness and good practice, including through the development of a code of conduct and independent monitoring of compliance with these standards.

4.6 Training

TILNDEC will facilitate the provision of training for its constituents in development theory and strategies, human rights, policy development, advocacy, good practice, management, submission writing and other areas as required.

5. MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all Timor Lorosae NGOs who subscribe to the objectives and principles of TILNDEC and meet the following requirements for eligibility:

* Endorse the TILNDEC code of conduct
* Have a membership base which demonstrates community support
* Provide an independently audited financial statement
* Are accepted by a meeting of the TILDEC annual council.
* Pay an annual membership fee to be determined
* Are legally incorporated

6. STRUCTURE

TILNDEC is governed by a Council of constituent members which meets annually and elects an Executive Board and officers to carry out the work of the Council between annual meetings. The TILNDEC Secretariat, led by an Executive Director, is responsible for coordinating and implementing the program of work agreed by the annual council and the Executive Committee, including the appointment and direction of staff and funding for the Secretariat.